

H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO L. GEORGE YAP AND
LEASA INDUSTRIES CO., INC.

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor George Yap, the President and Chief Executive Officer of LEASA Industries, Inc., which is located in the heart of one of the poorest neighborhoods in my 17th Congressional District.

George Yap is a special man, and a truly gifted businessman. He has demonstrated beyond all doubt that businesses can operate successfully and profitably in poor communities, relying on neighborhood workers to produce their products, if management has a sound business plan and the commitment to make it work.

George Yap is responsible for nothing less than an economic transformation of an area in my district that had few economic opportunities.

George has reached out to the people in his neighboring community in a way that no one else has. LEASA currently employs 70 full and part-time workers, the majority of whom are residents of public housing who include single mothers, school drop outs and even ex-convicts. Many of his workers have been with the company for more than 10 years and have moved up to supervisory positions.

He has been unselfish in extending his help to people who reside in public housing—people who other businesses, even government leaders, considered unemployable. He recognized and fostered in them the personal pride, desire for achievement, ability to learn, loyalty and commitment that any successful business needs from its employees.

In so doing, George Yap proved to be more than just an employer, and his workers received more than just wages. He has been the biggest motivator and supporter of his employees, helping to keep families together, encouraging them to improve their skills and learn new ones, and improving their quality of life by providing day care for their children and insuring that they receive the health services they need. George also provides mentoring services to new entrepreneurs. Under his guidance, LEASA Industries has won national awards from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Small Business Administration, Inc. Magazine and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

This Saturday, January 26, LEASA Industries will break ground on a new \$4.6 million production facility in the Poinciana Industrial Park. I was happy to assist in this effort by legislatively directing almost \$2 million in federal Economic Development funds to this project, which is truly a wise public investment.

I know that my colleagues join with me in offering congratulations to George, his wife Einez, and their three children Andrew, Sean, and Allison for a job well done.

IN HONOR OF BLAKE HASELTON

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Blake Haselton. Mr. Haselton is the Superintendent of Oldham County Schools, a district which lies in Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District.

Last month, Mr. Haselton was named Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Superintendents. Next month, he could be named National Superintendent of the Year by the American Association of School Administrators.

Since he began in Oldham County in 1973, Mr. Haselton has served as a high school biology teacher, athletic director, director of guidance services, and principal. He also served as the district's director of pupil personnel before being named superintendent in 1991.

His colleagues praise him as an education leader who "stays on top of both the academic and financial elements of operating a school system," and "makes his decisions on what's best for kids." The Oldham County Teachers Association says Mr. Haselton is everything teachers want in a superintendent: child-centered, focused on teachers' needs, and an aggressive planner. The chair of the Oldham County Board of Education says Mr. Haselton is a "leader amongst leaders . . . a master teacher" who "inspires the best in others."

Mr. Haselton also serves his community by doing volunteer work for several recreational, civic, and scouting organizations.

I rise today to congratulate Blake Haselton on being named Kentucky Superintendent of the Year, and to wish him well as he vies for the national title next month. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Haselton for his nearly three decades of outstanding service to the people of Oldham County, KY.

IN HONOR OF JIM ARMSTRONG

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a true leader of the city of Torrance and dear friend.

I met Jim Armstrong when I first ran for Congress. As a teacher of government and former mayor, he shared with me his great insight into the community. Indeed, in the years since, I came to value him as an advisor and friend. He helped me in every campaign and served as a member of my advisory committee on public education. He called himself a "Harman man," and I was clearly an "Armstrong woman."

It is hard to do justice to the true extent of Jim's reputation, influence, and impact. As teacher, councilman, mayor, and citizen, he exemplified the highest standard of community leadership and public service. During his six years on the Torrance City Council and eight more as Mayor, Jim fought for more parkland, for the Cultural Arts Center, for a new police station, and oversaw Torrance's renaissance

into a beautiful and modern city. Even in retirement, Jim remained an active leader in the community, serving in leadership roles in the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation, Torrance Education Foundation, and Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce.

While Jim's work can be seen in buildings and parks across Torrance, his true legacy lies in the generation of students he inspired as a teacher. Countless students he taught have since pursued careers in which they too serve the community. I am proud to count myself among his students of politics, and am proud to be a part of establishing a college scholarship in Jim Armstrong's honor. This scholarship will be awarded to a student who exemplifies Jim's outstanding community leadership and scholastic aptitude.

No one was more committed to Torrance, to service, or to education than Jim Armstrong. I will miss his counsel, his sense of humor, and his generosity, but mostly, my family and I will miss Jim.

THE QUONSET AIR MUSEUM'S AC-
QUISITION OF AN F-14 AIRCRAFT

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 24, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to announce a very important achievement by the Quonset Air Museum in North Kingston, Rhode Island. Thanks to the coordinated effort of the Hasbro Corporation, the Rhode Island Air National Guard, the Rhode Island delegation and the Quonset Air Museum, an all-volunteer organization, the museum has been selected as the new home for the US Navy F-14 Tomcat, tail number A162591.

The mission to bring an F-14 to the museum began over 3 years ago. Thanks to countless letters and phone calls over the years and the diligence of many dedicated civilians and members of the services, today we are rewarded with the acquisition of a military treasure. This aircraft will join 30 other military and civilian aircraft and 5,000 smaller artifacts that are on display in the Quonset Air Museum. This plane was recently given a noble warrior's retirement from Fallon Naval Air Station in Nevada, the new home of the Navy's Top Gun competition. And it was even featured in the movie, Top Gun. But perhaps, most important of all, the F-14 has served the military for over 25 years. It was used in the Persian Gulf War and is now leading our effort in Afghanistan.

Today Rhode Island celebrates these accomplishments at an appropriate time in our nation's history. This aircraft has trained and prepared some of the Navy's top fighter pilots. It exemplifies the strength and vigilance of our country's armed forces and it demonstrates the honor attached to the service to one's country. This occasion reminds me of the importance of patriotism and of my love of this country.

I am proud to be an American, and I am proud to be a Rhode Islander. I hope that current and future generations visiting the Quonset Air Museum share my appreciation for the hard work of the museum in bringing this living legend to our community and for the